PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) In a wireless communication system, a method for transmitting pilot references from a plurality of transmission sources, the method comprising:

receiving at each transmission source one or more signals indicative of a time reference for the communication system;

generating at each transmission source a plurality of pilot bursts for a pilot reference, wherein the pilot bursts are in synchronization with the time reference; and

transmitting the plurality of pilot bursts from each transmission source.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein pilot bursts from the plurality of transmission sources are aligned in time at the time of transmission.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of pilot bursts from each transmission source are transmitted at predetermined time intervals.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of pilot bursts has a predefined width.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each pilot burst is transmitted at or near a maximum transmit power level of the transmission source.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

withholding data transmission at each access point during transmission of the pilot bursts.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

processing at each transmission source pilot data in accordance with a particular processing scheme such that the pilot reference from each transmission source is differentiated from pilot references from other transmission sources.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the processing at each transmission source ~~includes~~ comprises:

spreading the pilot data with a pseudo-noise (PN) sequence at a particular offset that is different from offsets for other transmission sources.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

continuing transmission of the plurality of pilot bursts from a particular transmission source even if no data is to be transmitted from the transmission source.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein transmission from each transmission source occurs over slots, and wherein each slot covers a particular time period and includes a particular number of pilot bursts.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein each slot includes two pilot bursts.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein each pilot burst is associated with a respective portion of the slot and positioned in the center of the associated portion.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

padding both sides of each pilot burst in an idle slot with additional transmissions of at least a particular minimum period.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting immediately on both sides of each pilot burst to ensure that the pilot burst is received at or near its steady state value.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more signals used to derived the time reference for the communication system are received from a Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite constellation.

16. (Original) In a wireless communication system, a method for transmitting pilot references from a plurality of transmission sources, the method comprising:

at each transmission source

receiving one or more signals from a Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite constellation,

processing the one or more received signals to derive a time reference for the communication system,

generating a plurality of pilot bursts for a pilot reference, wherein the pilot bursts are in synchronization with the time reference, and

transmitting the plurality of pilot bursts at predetermined time intervals and at or near a maximum transmit power level of the transmission source, and

wherein pilot bursts from the plurality of transmission sources are aligned in time at the time of transmission.

17. (Original) A wireless communication system comprising:

a plurality of access points, each access point configured to

receive one or more signals indicative of a time reference for the communication system,

generate a plurality of pilot bursts for a pilot reference, wherein the pilot bursts are in synchronization with the time reference; and

transmit the plurality of pilot bursts.

18. (Original) The communication system of claim 17, wherein pilot bursts from the plurality of access points are aligned in time at the time of transmission.

19. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 17, wherein each access point ~~includes~~ comprises:

a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver configured to receive and process one or more signals from a Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite constellation to provide a signal indicative of the time reference for the communication system.

20. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 17, wherein each access point ~~includes~~ comprises:

a controller configured to receive the time reference for the communication system and generate the plurality of pilot bursts.

21. (Original) The communication system of claim 17, wherein each access point is configured to transmit the plurality of pilot bursts at or near a maximum transmit power level for the access point.

22. (Original) An access terminal for use in a wireless communication system, comprising:

an RF module configured to receive a modulated signal over a wireless communication link and to condition the received signal to generate a conditioned signal; and

a modem block coupled to the RF module and configured to process the conditioned signal to recover a plurality of pilot references transmitted from a plurality of access points, wherein the pilot reference from each access point is transmitted in pilot bursts that are synchronized with a system time reference, and wherein the pilot bursts from the plurality of access points are aligned in time at the time of transmission.

23. (Original) The access terminal of claim 22, wherein the modem block is configured to generate samples from the conditioned signal and to despread the samples with a pseudo-noise (PN) sequence at a particular offset for each of the plurality of access points.

24. (New) An access terminal, comprising:

means for receiving a pilot burst; and

means for determining a link condition based on the pilot burst.

25. (New) An access terminal as in claim 24, further comprising:

means for determining an access point having a best signal quality based at least on the received pilot burst.

26. (New) An access terminal as in claim 25, further comprising:

means for determining a highest data rate supported by the access point.

27. (New) An access terminal as in claim 24, wherein the pilot burst is received having a predetermined burst width and a predetermined interval, and wherein the predetermined burst width and the predetermined interval are known a priori by the access terminal.

28. (New) An access terminal as in claim 27, wherein the pilot burst is transmitted at a maximum transmit power.

29. (New) An access terminal as in claim 27, wherein no user-specific data is received with the pilot burst at the predetermined interval.

30. (New)An access terminal as in claim 27, wherein multiple pilot bursts from different access points are synchronized.

31. (New) An access terminal as in claim 30, wherein means for receiving comprises:

means for receiving a plurality of pilot bursts from different access points.

32. (New) An access terminal as in claim 24, further comprising:

means for estimating worst-case carrier to interference ratio from the pilot burst.

33. (New) An access terminal, comprising:

a modem for receiving a plurality of pilot bursts from different access points, wherein the pilot bursts are synchronized and sent at a predetermined interval; and

a processor for determining a link condition from each pilot burst.

34. (New) An access terminal as in claim 33, wherein the access terminal recognizes the pilot bursts as pilot references.

35. (New) An access terminal as in claim 33, wherein the access terminal uses the pilot burst to estimate worst-case carrier to interference ratio.

36. (New) An access terminal, comprising:

processor; and

memory storage unit, storing:

a first set of computer-readable instruction for receiving a pilot burst; and

a second set of computer-readable instrucations for determining a link condition based on the pilot burst.

37. (New) An access terminal as in claim 36, the memory storage unit further storing:
a third set of computer-readable instructions for determining an access point having a best signal quality based at least on the received pilot burst.

38. (New) An access terminal as in claim 37, the memory storage unit further storing:
a fourth set of computer-readable instructions for determining a highest data rate supported by the access point.

39. (New) An access terminal as in claim 36, wherein the pilot burst has a predetermined burst width and a predetermined interval, and wherein the predetermined burst width and the predetermined interval are known a priori by the access terminal.

40. (New) An access terminal as in claim 39, wherein the pilot burst is transmitted at a maximum transmit power.

41. (New) An access terminal as in claim 39, wherein no user-specific data is received with the pilot burst at the predetermined interval.

42. (New) An access terminal as in claim 39, wherein multiple pilot bursts from different access points are synchronized.

43. (New) An access terminal as in claim 42, wherein the memory storage unit further stores:

a second set of computer-readable instructions for receiving a plurality of pilot bursts from different access points.

44. (New) An access terminal as in claim 36, the memory storage unit further storing:

a second set of computer-readable instructions for estimating worst-case carrier to interference ratio from the pilot burst.